Attorney Docket 044499/0108

Application No. 09/524,693

an identifier for performing personal identification by comparing the living body characteristic data detected by the living body characteristic data of users previously obtained.

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4. (Amended) A personal identification apparatus for performing personal identification by employing living body characteristics of a user having a central device, and a plurality of personal identification terminals, each of said personal identification terminals comprising:

a identification condition data reader for reading identification condition data specifying at least one living body characteristic stored in a portable storage media carried by a user;

a living body characteristic detector for defecting from said user the living body characteristic data corresponding to the identification condition data read by said identification condition data reader;

a peripheral controller to control the living body characteristic detector; an identifier for performing personal identification by comparing the living body characteristic data detected by said living body characteristic detector with living body characteristic data of users obtained previously; and

a communicator for communicating with said central device.

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8. (Amended) A personal identification method for detecting living body characteristics of a user to compare the detected characteristics with the living body characteristic data previously obtained about the user to execute personal identification, comprising the steps of:

storing identification condition data specifying at least one living body characteristics for the personal identification into a portable storage media to be carried by the user; and

detecting living body characteristic data corresponding to the identification condition data read from said portable storage media from the user to execute the personal identification.

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wherein detecting the living body characteristic data comprises operating a living body characteristic detector controlled by a peripheral controller.